2-5 Field Assessments

Properly conducted Field Assessments are a technique that has proven successful in establishing the project scope while reducing potential design issues, construction issues and cost escalation. For this reason, sponsoring agencies and consultants should use Field Assessments to help ensure successful projects.

Field Assessments should occur at several critical stages of project development and should be attended by representatives of the key engineering disciplines involved in the project whose input may be critical in decisions made. This includes representatives from the sponsoring agency consultants, the District, and the OSFP Liaison Engineer. It is incumbent on the representatives to collectively use their knowledge and experience to ensure the project is properly scoped, to look for potential problems, to determine potential courses of action, and to review proposed solutions.

Following are the different project stages where Field Assessments are recommended. The Liaison Engineer is available to assist with the planning and to participate in these Assessments.

Project Study Report or Project Approval and Environmental Document Phase

Early in the Project Study Report (PSR), Project Report (PR), or Project Approval/Environmental Document (PA/ED) phase, Field Assessments allow for the identification of the project constraints and development of a variety of potential solutions. Constructability, utilities, traffic and other constraints should be examined and documented for use in developing suitable alternatives for structure Advance Planning Studies (APS), PSRs, and PRs.

Preliminary Design Phase (Type Selection)

The project site should be assessed for changes that have occurred since the development of the previous planning studies. This is especially important when considerable time has passed since the approval of the PSR, or PR.

PS&E Phase

This Field Assessment allows for a comprehensive review of the final plans and specifications against the latest field conditions. It is especially important that Highway and Structure Construction staff attend this assessment so their input can be incorporated prior to the completion of the contract documents.